

3 FEB 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Comments to BOB - Federal Firearms Act Amendments
of 1965**

1. Purpose. The essence of the amendments is to:

(a) Limit sales of firearms in interstate and foreign commerce to sales between licensed manufacturers and dealers (no mail order shipments to individuals).

(b) Prohibit over-the-counter sales to non-residents of the state (except for sporting-type firearms, shot guns, and rifles).

(c) Prohibits sale to persons under 18 years of age or convicted of felony.

(d) Penalizes by heavy fees importation of cheap foreign-made firearms and ammunition.

(e) Applies stricter federal control of large caliber weapons (bazookas) and destructive devices (grenades) by providing that they can only be transported in interstate or foreign commerce between licensees.

(f) Tightens up standards on who may be issued licenses and makes significant increase fees.

(g) Requires stricter control of record-keeping requirements of licensee and provides that government agents can inspect records during business hours.

(h) Requires all dealers, manufacturers, and importers to identify on the outside of the building that they are licensed under the Act.

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3. The proposed legislation provides that "ammunition" will no longer be covered under the Federal Firearms Act. This is because ammunition carries no identifying markings, making it difficult to follow in commercial transactions. Control of the firearm is obviously the important factor.

4. 15 U.S.C. 904, Section 4 presently excepts agencies of federal and state governments from the application of the Federal Firearms Act. This exception is granted both to firearms and ammunition. The proposed bill no longer grants that exception to ammunition on the theory that ammunition will not be covered by the Act except for importation of foreign ammunition and in which case that applies only to persons covered by the proposal from which the federal government is specifically excluded. One other item in this connection is that the present act would theoretically permit a commission or agent to buy firearms in this capacity without falling under the requirements of the Federal Firearms Act. This will no longer be possible, and the individual can only get a weapon outside of the purview of the Firearms Act directly from his agency.

5. In connection with this proposed bill, I talked to Mr. Burrus, code 128, extension 28435, Hugo Ranta, extension 1597, and John Coggins, 3567, the latter being the expert. Mr. Coggins does not feel that the present bill will get through unless the President pushes it hard. However, the White House is pushing on the bill, and Coggins feels that this is a maneuver which may lead the National Rifle Association to support a less stringent measure, probably Senator Dodd's earlier bill which covered only revolvers and pistols. The prime concern seems to be "destructive devices" and Coggins indicated we would soon be receiving Amendments to the National Firearms Act (Internal Revenue Code), which requires fingerprinting and pictures of persons dealing with such devices.

The amendment would be to pick up the broader language defining destructive devices as set forth in the proposed Federal Firearms Act legislation to include grenades, bombs, rocket, missile, or launching devices. This is aimed at Minutemen in a recent case where one of their members manufactured 150 grenades and widely distributed them. Coggins feels such a measure would receive the support of the National Rifle Association.

SIGNED


Office of Legislative Counsel

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